

Application No. 10/002,745
Amendment filed with RCE

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

New independent claims 21, 23 and 25 have been prepared based on subject matter previously recited in, for example, (now canceled) claims 1, 3 and 5 as set forth in the Amendment filed on April 14, 2005, as well as to clarify the features of the present invention whereby technical divisions are determined which share a market countermeasure task of solving a unique problem presented by the new claim report and developing a countermeasure part that does not encounter the unique problem, whereby task sheets are issued for the market countermeasure task to the technical divisions, and whereby the tasks sheets returned from the technical divisions are received so as to update a state of progress of the market countermeasure task, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 18, line 24 to page 19, line 10 and page 19, line 23 to page 20, line 6. See also Figs. 11-13.

In addition, new claims 22, 24 and 26-40 have been prepared to recite the subject matter of (now canceled) 2, 4 and 6-20 as set forth in the Amendment filed on April 14, 2005.

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Still further, new claims 41-43 have been added to recite the features of the present invention whereby claim content of the new claim report is input in a format similar to natural language, and the new claim report is registered in a format including at least a claim title structured as a combination of predetermined items of definition information expressed in standard terms, based on the claim content in the format similar to the natural language, as previously recited in (now canceled) claims 1, 3 and 5 as set forth in the Amendment filed on April 14, 2005.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that new claims 21-43 be approved and entered.

CLAIM FEE

The application has previously contained as many as 4 independent claims and as many as 20 claims in total. The application now contains 23 claims, of which 3 are independent. Accordingly, a claim fee in the amount of \$150.00 for the addition of 3 extra claims in total is attached hereto. In addition, authorization is hereby given to charge any additional fees which may be determined to be required to Account No. 06-1378.

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THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-6, 8-10 and 15 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 6,591,258 ("Stier" et al"); claims 7, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of Stier et al; and claims 13, 14 and 16-19 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Stier et al with "Coordination in Workflow Management Systems - A Rule-Based Approach," G. Kappel et al ("Kappel et al"); and claim 20 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of Stier et al and Official Notice. These, rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to new claims 21-43 set forth hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in each of new independent claims 21, 23 and 25, technical divisions are determined which share a market countermeasure task of solving a unique problem presented by a new claim report (which is input via a web page in a knowledge base section) and of developing a countermeasure part that does not encounter the unique problem. As recited in new independent claims 21, 23 and 25, task sheets are issued for the market countermeasure task to the technical divisions, and the task sheets are returned from the technical divisions so as to update a state of progress of the market countermeasure task.

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That is, according to the present invention as recited in new independent claims 21, 23 and 25, a new claim report is managed so as to solve a problem by creating a countermeasure part that does not encounter the problem identified in the claim report, in a task that is shared across technical divisions and that is monitored based on task sheets issued to and returned from the technical divisions.

As recognized by the Examiner, Stier et al discloses a technical support system using a knowledge base that stores information of problems and solutions for the problems. And as recognized by the Examiner, Stier et al discloses that if new content is needed for the knowledge base, an author can author new content. It is respectfully submitted, however, that Stier et al is directed toward minimizing redundancies among the information stored in the knowledge base to improve the accessibility of the information, and that monitoring the state of progress of the solution to a problem is merely focused on confirming that information is necessary and obtaining the information.

It is respectfully submitted that Stier et al does not disclose, teach or suggest determining technical divisions which share a market countermeasure task of solving a unique problem presented by the new claim report and developing a countermeasure part that does not encounter the unique problem. And it is

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respectfully submitted that Stier et al clearly does not at all disclose, teach or suggest issuing task sheets for the market countermeasure task to the technical divisions, or that the tasks sheets returned from the technical divisions are received so as to update a state of progress of the market countermeasure task.

Indeed, the Examiner acknowledges on page 6 of the Office Action that Stier et al does not disclose various technical divisions, but asserts that such divisions would have been obvious. In addition, the Examiner has cited Kappel et al for the disclosure of workflow management.

As recognized by the Examiner, Kappel et al discloses a workflow management system for various activities required to reach a common goal. As explained by Kappel et al, activities may be classified into types and an execution order of the activities may be set to accomplish the goal as fast as possible by, for example, executing an activity and a prerequisite activity in series and by executing activities that are not dependent upon each other in parallel.

It is respectfully submitted, however, that even the combination of Stier et al and Kappel et al does not disclose, teach or suggest determining technical divisions that share a task that includes multiple technical divisions working together to develop a countermeasure part that does not encounter a unique problem identified in a claim report, and issuing and receiving

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task sheets to update a state of progress of the development of the part, as recited in each of new independent claims 21, 23 and 25.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in new independent claims 21, 23 and 25, and new claims 22, 24 and 26-43 respectively depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over Stier et al and Kappel et al, taken singly or in combination, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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